(d) Does not arise.

JV with Israel for production of missiles

1105. SHRI D.RAJA:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided on a joint venture with Israel for the production of missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the general opinion in the country is against any military tie ups with Israel which will annoy the Muslim countries who share friendly relations with India; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has earlier entered into a contract with M/s Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Israel to jointly develop a Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) system for the Indian and Israeli Navy in January, 2006.

(c) and (d) The Government of India pursues bilateral cooperation with Israel in many fields, keeping in mind our national interests. Cooperation in the field of defence is one of the many dimensions of bilateral cooperation. This is based on our sole national interest and does not come in the way of the warm and mutually beneficial cooperation that we share with friendly Muslim countries.

Voluntary retirement by defence personnel

1106. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel in Defence Services who have sought for voluntary retirement during the last three years, force-wise;

(b) whether any remedial measures have been taken in this regard;.

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The number of officers who sought discharge during the last three years, force-wise is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2004	435	119	249
2005	536	176	308
2006	811	259	230